

In re patent application of:
GLUSING ET AL.
Continuation of 10/101,141 filed 03/19/02
Filed: **HEREWITH**
Serial No. **NOT YET ASSIGNED**

In the claims:

Claims 1. - 29. (canceled)

30. (new) An assembly for interfacing an information device with a host computer unit, comprising a cartridge that is insertable into a cartridge insertion opening of said host computer unit, said cartridge having a first portion that is configured to receive and protectively retain a first information device for removable engagement with an internal electrical connector of said host computer unit accessible by way of said cartridge insertion opening of said host computer unit, and a second portion that is configured to retain a second information device that is mechanically and electrically isolated said first information device, and at least one external electrical connector that provides external electrical access to at least one of said first and second information devices.

31. (new) The assembly according to claim 30, wherein said cartridge includes a faceplate having a sealing member that is sized to surround said cartridge insertion opening, so as to become sealed against said host computer unit by insertion of said cartridge into said cartridge insertion opening, and thereby prevent moisture and foreign matter from entering the interior of said host computer unit through said cartridge insertion opening.

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32. (new) The assembly according to claim 30, wherein said at least one external electrical connector comprises first and second external electrical connectors that respectively provide external electrical access to said first and second information devices.

33. (new) The assembly according to claim 30, wherein said cartridge has a faceplate that is sealable against an exterior surface of said host computer unit adjacent to said cartridge-insertion opening, and wherein said faceplate includes a first electrical connector that provides external access to said first information device, and a second electrical connector that provides external access to said second information device.

34. (new) The assembly according to claim 30, wherein said cartridge-insertion opening of said computer unit includes guide elements that guide insertion of said cartridge so as to bring a connector of said first information device retained by said cartridge into aligned engagement with said internal electrical connector of said host computer unit.

35. (new) The assembly according to claim 34, wherein said cartridge-insertion opening includes a capture plate that is urged

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against a retention plate engaging said information device and preventing said information device from becoming dislodged from said cartridge in the course of removal of said cartridge from said host computer unit.

36. (new) The assembly according to claim 34, wherein said cartridge-insertion opening includes a capture plate that is urged against a retention plate engaging said information device to prevent said connector of said information device from remaining engaged with said internal electrical connector of said host computer unit in the course of removal of said cartridge from said host computer unit.

37. (new) The assembly according to claim 30, wherein said first information device comprises a PCMCIA (Personal Computer Memory Card International Association) type card and said second information device comprises a memory device.

38. (new) An assembly for interfacing an information device with a host computer unit, comprising a cartridge that is insertable into a cartridge insertion opening of said host computer unit, and is configured to retain an information device for removable engagement with an internal electrical connector of said host computer unit that is accessible by way of said

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cartridge insertion opening of said host computer unit, wherein said cartridge has a first portion that is configured to house a first information device for removable engagement with said internal electrical connector of said host computer unit, and a second portion that is configured to house a second information device separate from said first information device, said cartridge further including a faceplate that is sealable against an exterior surface of said host computer unit adjacent to said cartridge-insertion opening, and wherein said faceplate includes a first electrical connector that provides external access to said first information device, and a second electrical connector that provides external access to said second information device.

39. (new) The assembly according to claim 38, wherein said first information device comprises a PCMCIA type card, and said second information device comprises a memory drive device.

40. (new) The assembly according to claim 38, wherein said faceplate further includes a movable element between said first and second connectors and being selectively positionable so as to allow an external electrical connection to only one of said first and second connectors at a time.

41. (new) The assembly according to claim 40, wherein said

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faceplate and said movable element are configured to provide external optical access to an optical indicator on said first information device.

42. (new) The assembly according to claim 38, wherein said cartridge includes a support surface upon which said first information device is supported, and a hold-down element, that is configured to be biased against said first information device installed on said support surface, so as to mechanically urge said information device against said support surface of said cartridge.

43. (new) The assembly according to claim 42, wherein said hold-down element comprises a biasing spring element.

44. (new) The assembly according to claim 42, wherein said cartridge further includes a generally flexible device-retention tang sized to engage said information device as retained on said support surface of said cartridge, and thereby prevent translation of said information device relative to said cartridge.

45. (new) The assembly according to claim 44, wherein said cartridge-insertion opening includes a capture plate configured to engage said retention tang and urge said tang against said information device, in the course of insertion of said cartridge

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into said cartridge insertion opening that brings said connector of said first information device, as retained by said cartridge, into aligned engagement with said internal electrical connector of said host computer unit and, in the course of removal of said cartridge from said cartridge insertion opening, to continue to engage said retention tang and urge said tang against said information device, until said connector of said first information device has become fully disengaged from said internal electrical connector of said host computer unit.

46. (new) The assembly according to claim 42, wherein said cartridge includes a frame having a first support surface upon which said first information device is removably supported, and a second support surface, separate from said first support surface, upon which said second information device is removably captured and electrically and mechanically isolating said second information device from said first information device.

47. (new) The assembly according to claim 42, wherein said cartridge-insertion opening contains guide rails that prevent mutual engagement between internal circuit components of said host computer unit and said cartridge during insertion and removal of said cartridge.

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48. (new) A computer interface comprising a cartridge that is insertable into a cartridge insertion slot of said computer, and has a first portion that retains a first information device at a first surface portion thereof for engagement with an internal electrical connector of said computer, and a second portion that retains a second information device in mechanical and electrical isolation from said first information device, and wherein said cartridge retains said first information device at said first surface portion thereof in a manner that prevents translation of said first information device relative to said first surface portion of said cartridge during removal of said cartridge from said computer.

49. (new) The computer interface according to claim 48, wherein said first information device comprises a PCMCIA type card, and said second information device comprises a memory drive device.